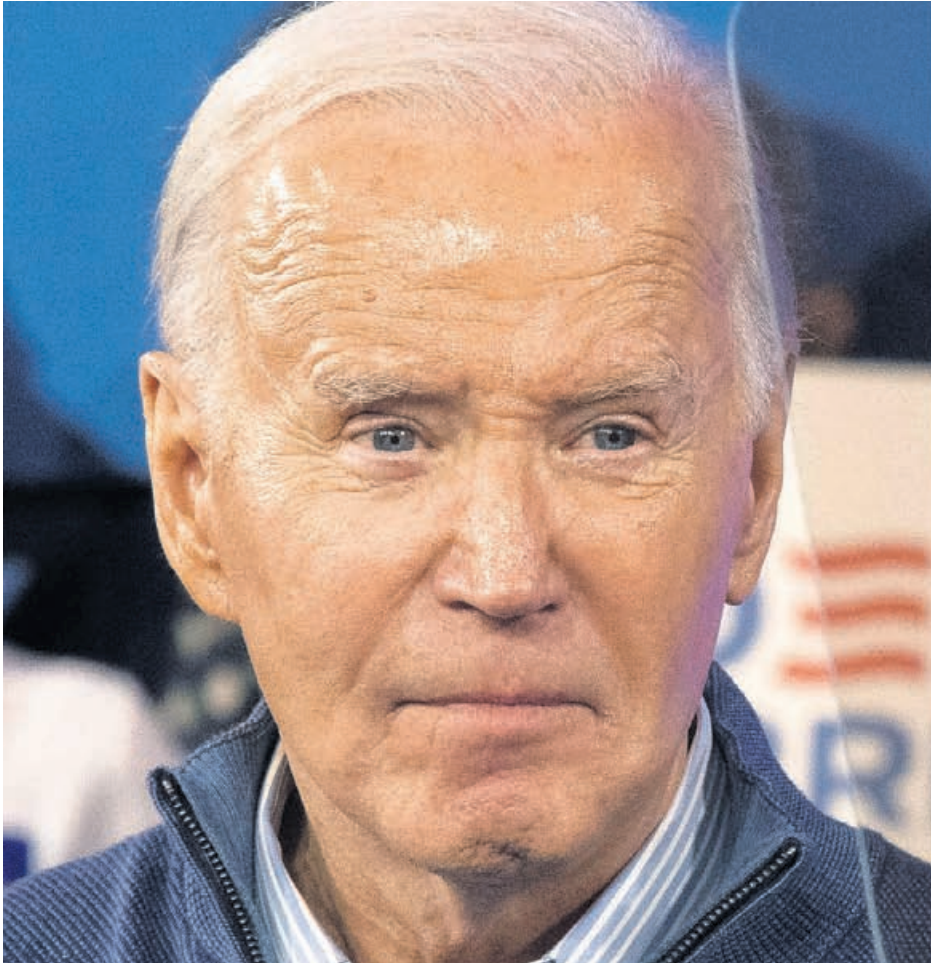




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House votes to require delivery of bombs to Israel in GOP-led rebuke of Biden policies



This combination photo shows President Joe Biden, left, on March 8, 2024, in Wallingford, Pa., and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Tel Aviv, Israel, Oct. 28, 2023.

Associated Press
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House votes to require delivery of bombs to Israel in GOP-led rebuke of Biden policies

From Front

By **STEPHEN GROVES and SEUNG MIN KIM**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House delivered a rebuke to President Joe Biden Thursday for pausing a shipment of bombs to Israel, passing legislation that seeks to force the weapons transfer as Republicans worked to highlight Democratic divisions over the Israel-Hamas war. Seeking to discourage Israel from its offensive on the crowded southern Gaza city of Rafah, the Biden administration this month put on hold a weapons shipment of 3,500 bombs — some as large as 2,000 pounds — that are capable of killing hundreds in populated areas. Republicans were outraged, accusing Biden of abandoning the closest U.S. ally in the Middle East.

Debate over the bill, rushed to the House floor by GOP leadership this week, showed Washington's deeply fractured outlook on the Israel-Hamas war. The White House and Democratic leadership scrambled to rally support from a House caucus that ranges from moderates frustrated that the president would allow any daylight between the U.S. and Israel to progressives outraged that he is still sending any weapons at all.

The bill passed comfortably 224-187 as 16 Democrats joined with most Republicans to vote in favor. Three Republicans voted against it. On the right, Republicans said the president had no business chiding Israel for how it uses the U.S.-manufactured weapons that are instrumental in its war against Hamas. They have not been satisfied with the Biden administration moving forward this week on a new \$1 billion sale to Israel of tank ammunition, tactical vehicles and mortar rounds.

"We're beyond frustrated," Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell said. "I don't think we should tell the Israelis how to conduct their military campaign, period." The House bill condemns



From left, GOP Conference Chair Elise Stefanik, R-N.Y., Speaker of the House Mike Johnson, R-La., House Majority Leader Steve Scalise, R-La., Majority Whip Tom Emmer, R-Minn., speak to reporters about President Joe Biden pausing a shipment of bombs to Israel, at the Capitol in Washington, Thursday, May 16, 2024.

Associated Press

Biden for initiating the pause on the bomb shipment and would withhold funding for the State Department, Department of Defense and the National Security Council until the delivery is made.

The White House has said Biden would veto the bill if it passes Congress, and the Democratic-led Senate seems certain to reject it. "It's not going anywhere," Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said earlier this week.

Republicans were under-terred. Appearing on the Capitol steps ahead of voting Thursday morning, House Republican leaders argued that passage of the bill in the House would build pressure on Schumer and Biden.

"It is President Biden and Senator Schumer himself who are standing in the way of getting Israel the resources it desperately needs to defend itself," Speaker Mike Johnson said.

Biden placed the hold on the transfer of the bombs this month over concerns the weapons could inflict massive casualties in Rafah and to deter Israel from the attack.

Over 30,000 Palestinians in Gaza have been killed as Israel tries to eliminate Hamas in retaliation for its Oct. 7 at-

tack that killed 1,200 people in Israel and took about 250 more captive. Hundreds of thousands of people could be at risk of death if Israel attacks Rafah, the United Nations humanitarian aid agency has warned, because so many have fled there for safety.

The heavy toll of the Israeli campaign has prompted intense protests on the left, including on university campuses nationwide and some aimed directly at Biden. In a rare scene on the Capitol steps Thursday, a group of about two dozen House aides gathered just as lawmakers were entering the chamber to vote and displayed a banner that read, "Your staff demands you save Rafah."

At the same time, a group of moderate Democrats in Congress have expressed almost unconditional support for Israel. Roughly two dozen House Democrats last week signed onto a letter to the Biden administration saying they were "deeply concerned about the message" sent by pausing the bomb shipment.

Eager to tamp down the number from Biden's own party who would side with Republicans on the vote, national security adviser Jake

Sullivan and deputy national security adviser Jon Finer got on the phone this week with Democratic lawmakers who could possibly defect.

Among their arguments, according to an administration official with knowledge of their conversations and granted anonymity to discuss them, was that the legislation would constrain the president's foreign policy powers. Sullivan and Finer also noted in these discussions that what Biden did — pausing aid in order to influence Israel's actions — was similar to President Ronald Reagan's decision in 1982 to halt military aid to Israel amid its invasion of Lebanon. House Democratic leadership also worked hard to convince rank-and-file lawmakers to vote against the bill. "The legislation on the floor today is not a serious effort to strengthen the special relationship between the United States and Israel," said House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries.

He added that he supported the effort to "decisively" defeat Hamas while also advocating for a goal of "Israel living in safety and security side by side with a demilitarized Palestinian state that allows for dignity and self-determination amongst the

Palestinian people."

With the general election campaign coming into focus, the speaker has mostly turned to advancing partisan bills, including legislation on immigration, local policing and antisemitism, that are intended to force Democrats into taking difficult votes.

"It's being done to score cheap political points," said Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, a Florida Democrat who signed onto the letter criticizing the pause, but voted against the bill. She added that it would potentially defund U.S. national security programs.

As an alternative, Rep. Michael McCaul, the Republican chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, introduced a separate bill Thursday with some bipartisan backing that would require the president to notify Congress before holding the delivery of defensive weapons to Israel and allow Congress to override the hold. Still, the 16 Democrats who voted for the bill showed a willingness to buck the president. The group consisted of both lawmakers vying for reelection in swing districts and those who are staunch supporters of Israel.

"The administration has been wavering so I'm going to vote for the bill when it comes to the floor," Rep. Ritchie Torres, a New York Democrat, said ahead of the vote.

Another Democrat who voted for the bill, Rep. Jared Moskowitz of Florida, said this week he also considered the messages being sent to the Jewish community in the United States.

"My community right now is worried," he said. "Things don't happen in a vacuum." Historically, the U.S. has sent enormous amounts of weaponry to Israel, and it has only accelerated those shipments after the Oct. 7 attack. But some progressives are pushing for an end to that relationship as they argue that Israel's campaign into Gaza amounts to genocide — a characterization that the Biden administration has rejected. □



Cannabis clones are displayed for customers at Home Grown Apothecary, April 19, 2024, in Portland, Ore.

Associated Press

Justice Department formally moves to reclassify marijuana as a less dangerous drug in historic shift

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department on Thursday formally moved to reclassify marijuana as a less dangerous drug, a historic shift in generations of U.S. drug policy.

A proposed rule sent to the federal register recognizes the medical uses of cannabis and acknowledges it has less potential for abuse than some of the nation's most dangerous drugs. The plan approved by Attorney General Merrick Garland would not legalize marijuana outright for recreational use. The Drug Enforcement Administration will next take public comment on the proposal in a potentially lengthy process. If approved, the rule would move marijuana away from its current classification as a Schedule I drug, alongside heroin and LSD. Pot would instead be a Schedule III substance, alongside ketamine and some anabolic steroids.

The move comes after a recommendation from the federal Health and Human Services Department, which launched a review of the drug's status at the urging of President Joe Biden in 2022. Biden also has moved to pardon thousands of people convicted federally of simple possession of marijuana and has called on governors and local leaders to take similar

steps to erase convictions. "This is monumental," Biden said in a video statement, calling it an important move toward reversing longstanding inequities. "Far too many lives have been upended because of a failed approach to marijuana, and I'm committed to righting those wrongs. You have my word on it." The election year announcement could help Biden, a Democrat, boost flagging support, particularly among younger voters.

The notice kicks off a 60-day comment period followed by a possible review from an administrative judge, which could be a drawn-out process.

Biden and a growing number of lawmakers from both major political parties have been pushing for the DEA decision as marijuana has become increasingly decriminalized and accepted, particularly by younger people. Some argue that rescheduling doesn't go far enough and marijuana should instead be treated the way alcohol is.

Democratic Senate Majority Leader Sen. Chuck Schumer of New York applauded the change and called for additional steps toward legalization.

The U.S. Cannabis Council, a trade group, said the switch would "signal a tectonic shift away from the failed policies of the last 50 years."

The Justice Department said that available data reviewed by HHS shows that while marijuana "is associated with a high prevalence of abuse," that potential is more in line with other Schedule III substances, according to the proposed rule.

The HHS recommendations are binding until the draft rule is submitted, and Garland agreed with it for the purposes of starting the process. Still, the DEA has not yet formed its own determination as to where marijuana should be scheduled, and it expects to learn more during the rulemaking process, the document states.

Some critics argue the DEA shouldn't change course on marijuana, saying rescheduling isn't necessary and could lead to harmful side effects. Dr. Kevin Sabet, a former White House drug policy adviser now with the group Smart Approaches to Marijuana, said there isn't enough data to support moving pot to Schedule III. "As we've maintained throughout this process, it's become undeniable that politics, not science, is driving this decision and has been since the very beginning," Sabet said.

The immediate effect of rescheduling on the nation's criminal justice system is expected to be muted. Federal prosecutions for simple possession have been fairly rare in recent years. □

U.S. border arrests fall in April, bucking usual spring increase as Mexico steps up enforcement



A group of people wait to be processed after crossing the border between Mexico and the United States as they seek asylum, Wednesday, April 17, 2024, near Jacumba, Calif.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Arrests for illegally crossing the U.S. border from Mexico fell more than 6% in April to the fourth lowest month of the Biden administration, authorities said Wednesday, bucking the usual spring increase.

U.S. officials have largely attributed the decline to more enforcement in Mexico, including in yards where migrants are known to board freight trains. Mexico won't allow more than 4,000 illegal crossings a day to the U.S., Alicia Barcena, Mexico's foreign relations secretary, told reporters Tuesday, down from more than 10,000 Border Patrol arrests on some days in December.

Migrants were arrested 128,884 times in April, down from 137,480 in March and barely half a record-high of 249,737 in December, U.S. Customs and Border Protection said. While still historically high, the sharp decline in arrests since late December is welcome news for President Joe Biden on a key issue that has nagged him in election-year polls.

San Diego became the busiest of the Border Patrol's nine sectors along the Mexican border for the first time since the 1990s with 37,370, replacing Tucson, Arizona. Troy Miller, Customs and Border Protection's acting commissioner, said more enforcement, including deportations, and cooperation with other countries resulted in lower numbers.

"As a result of this increased enforcement, southwest border encounters have not increased, bucking previous trends. We will remain vigilant to continually shifting migration patterns," he said.

Authorities granted entry to 41,400 people in April at land crossings with Mexico through an online appointment app called CBP One, bringing the total to more than 591,000 since it was introduced in January 2023. The U.S. also allows up to 30,000 Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans and Venezuelans if they apply online with a financial sponsor and arrive on commercial flights. About 435,000 entered the country that way through April, including 91,000 Cubans, 166,700 Haitians, 75,700 Nicaraguans and 101,200 Venezuelans. □



The Detroit skyline is seen, May 12, 2020, in Detroit.

Associated Press

Census Bureau estimates: Detroit population rises after decades of decline, South dominates growth

By **COREY WILLIAMS and MIKE SCHNEIDER**

Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — America's Northeast and Midwest cities are rebounding slightly from years of population drops — especially Detroit, which grew for the first time in decades — though the South still dominates the nation's growth, according to U.S. Census Bureau estimates released Thursday.

Detroit, Michigan's largest city, had seen an exodus of people since the 1950s. Yet the estimates released Thursday show Detroit's population rose by just 1,852 people from 631,366 in 2022 to 633,218 last year.

It's a milestone for Detroit, which had 1.8 million residents in the 1950s only to see its population dwindle and then plummet through suburban white flight, a 1967 race riot, the migration to the suburbs by many of the Black middle class and the national economic downturn that foreshadowed the city's 2013 bankruptcy filing.

"It's a great day. It's a day we've been waiting for for 10 years," Mayor Mike Duggan told The Associated Press. "The city of Detroit has joined the communities in America that are growing in population according to the Census Bureau. For our national brand, it was critically important for the Census Bureau to certify us as growing."

Modest reversals of population declines also were seen

last year in other large cities in the nation's Northeast and Midwest, while the census estimates showed 13 of the 15 fastest-growing cities in the U.S. were in the South — eight in Texas alone.

San Antonio, Texas, had the biggest growth spurt in pure numbers last year, adding about 22,000 residents. It was followed by other Southern cities, including Fort Worth, Texas; Charlotte, North Carolina; Jacksonville, Florida; and Port St. Lucie, Florida.

Some of the cities with the greatest growth rates were in exurbs dozens of miles from a metro's downtown core. They included places like Celina, Texas, located more than 40 miles north of downtown Dallas, and Fulshear, Texas, located more than 30 miles west of Houston. Rising housing costs and greater opportunities for remote work likely played roles in their popularity, according to the Census Bureau.

Three of the largest cities in the U.S. that had been bleeding residents this decade staunchly held those departures somewhat. New York City, which has lost almost 550,000 residents this decade so far, saw a drop of only 77,000 residents last year, about three-fifths the numbers from the previous year.

Los Angeles lost only 1,800 people last year, following a decline in the 2020s of almost 78,000 residents. Chicago, which has lost almost 82,000 people this decade, only had

a population drop of 8,200 residents last year.

And San Francisco, which has lost a greater share of residents this decade than any other big city — almost 7.5% — actually grew by more than 1,200 residents last year. New York City with nearly 8.3 million people remained the nation's largest city in population as of July 1, 2023. Los Angeles was second at close to 4 million residents, while Chicago was third at 2.7 million. Houston at 2.3 million residents, Phoenix at 1.7 million, Philadelphia at 1.6 million, San Antonio, Texas, at 1.5 million, San Diego at 1.4 million, Dallas at 1.3 million and Jacksonville, Florida, at 986,000 round out the top 10 largest cities.

For Detroit, the population bump is the continuation of slow and steady progress and confidence in the city. The NFL draft set a new attendance record after more than 775,000 fans flooded downtown Detroit last month for the three-day event.

That is far removed from where Detroit sat following its December 2014 exit from the largest municipal bankruptcy in U.S. history. About \$7 billion in debt was restructured or wiped out by the bankruptcy, and \$1.7 billion was set aside to improve city services.

Duggan took office in January 2014 and set about tackling the city's massive blight problem. More than 25,000 houses have been razed, mostly with federal funding, and 15,000 have or are being renovated.

About 4,500 vacant houses remain, many still to be torn down or renovated, according to the city.

"As we remove blight, more and more people are moving into the good houses," Duggan said. "Right now, it doesn't seem like we can build apartments fast enough."

Duggan also credits auto manufacturers and other companies bringing back jobs as aiding population growth across the 139-square-mile (360-square kilometer) city. But how many people actually live in Detroit and how they are counted has been a source of friction between the city and the Census Bureau. In September 2022, Detroit sued the Census Bureau over population estimates from 2021 that showed it lost 7,100 residents.

Duggan told reporters then that the city wanted the Census Bureau to reveal how it produced its population loss estimates for Detroit. The lawsuit followed the city's appeal of the 2020 census data that showed Detroit with 639,111 residents, while estimates from 2019 put the city's population at 670,052 residents.

Detroit was among several large cities to file a challenge of their 2020 census figures, following a national head count in which the Census Bureau acknowledged that a higher percentage of African Americans and Hispanics were undercounted than the previous decade. About 77% of Detroit's residents are African American, and Hispanics make up almost 8% of the population. □

Harris accepts debate invite to face off with Trump's VP pick, which may come at convention



Vice President Kamala Harris speaks to the Indian American Impact Project's Annual Summit, May 15, 2024, in Washington.

Associated Press

By **ZEKE MILLER and JILL COLVIN**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vice President Kamala Harris has accepted an invitation from CBS News to debate former President Donald Trump's vice presidential pick this summer, the Biden campaign said Thursday, as the Republican said he might wait until his party's convention in July to announce his selection. Harris' team told the network she would debate in-studio on Tuesday, July 23, or Tuesday, August 13, and encouraged the Trump campaign to agree to one of the dates for his eventual vice presidential pick. The Trump campaign didn't immediately comment on the debate invite. Trump, in an interview with TMJ4 taped from New York, said there was "a pretty good chance" he would announce his vice presidential pick at the GOP convention in Milwaukee, which begins on July 15, rather than before. "I don't say anything is 100%, but you're getting pretty close," he was quoted saying. "I'll be doing it in Milwaukee. We're going to have a great time."

The debates are not expected to take place before live audiences — a key demand of the Biden campaign that contributed to its decision to ditch the debates organized by the nonpartisan Commission on Presidential Debates, which had organized every presidential and vice presidential general election debate since 1988. □

South Africa urges U.N.'s top court to order cease-fire in Gaza to shield citizens in Rafah

By MOLLY QUELL
Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — South Africa urged the United Nations' top court on Thursday to order a cease-fire in Gaza during hearings over emergency measures to halt Israel's military operation in the enclave's southern city of Rafah.

It was the third time the International Court of Justice held hearings on the conflict in Gaza since South Africa filed proceedings in December at the court, based in The Hague in the Netherlands, accusing Israel of genocide.

The country's ambassador to the Netherlands, Vusimuzi Madonsela, urged the panel of 15 international judges to order Israel to "totally and unconditionally withdraw" from the Gaza Strip.

The court has already found that there is a "real and imminent risk" to the Palestinian people in Gaza by Israel's military operations. "This may well be the last chance for the court to act," said Irish lawyer Blinne Ní Ghráiligh, who is part of South Africa's legal team.

Judges at the court have broad powers to order a cease-fire and other measures, although the court does not have its own enforcement apparatus. A 2022 order by



South Africa's agents Vusimuzi Madonsela, seated right, and Cornelius Scholtz, seated second left, talk prior to the start of hearings at the International Court of Justice, in The Hague, Netherlands, Thursday, May 16, 2024.

the court demanding that Russia halt its full-scale invasion of Ukraine has so far gone unheeded.

During hearings earlier this year, Israel strongly denied committing genocide in Gaza, saying it does all it can to spare civilians and is only targeting Hamas militants. The country says Rafah is the last stronghold of the militant group. The latest request focuses on the incursion into Rafah.

South Africa argues that the

military operation has far surpassed justified self-defense. "Israel's actions in Rafah are part of the end game. This is the last step in the destruction of Gaza," lawyer Vaughan Lowe said.

According to the latest request, the previous preliminary orders by The Hague-based court were not sufficient to address "a brutal military attack on the sole remaining refuge for the people of Gaza." Israel will be allowed to answer the

accusations on Friday.

In January, judges ordered Israel to do all it can to prevent death, destruction and any acts of genocide in Gaza, but the panel stopped short of ordering an end to the military offensive that has laid waste to the Palestinian enclave. In a second order in March, the court said Israel must take measures to improve the humanitarian situation.

South Africa has to date submitted four requests for the

international court to investigate Israel. It was granted a hearing three times.

Most of Gaza's population of 2.3 million people have been displaced since fighting began.

The war began with a Hamas attack on southern Israel on Oct. 7 in which Palestinian militants killed around 1,200 people and took about 250 hostages. Gaza's Health Ministry says over 35,000 Palestinians have been killed in the war, without distinguishing between civilians and combatants in its count.

South Africa initiated proceedings in December 2023 and sees the legal campaign as rooted in issues central to its identity. Its governing party, the African National Congress, has long compared Israel's policies in Gaza and the occupied West Bank to its own history under the apartheid regime of white minority rule, which restricted most Blacks to "homelands." Apartheid ended in 1994.

On Sunday, Egypt announced it plans to join the case. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said Israeli military actions "constitute a flagrant violation of international law, humanitarian law, and the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 regarding the protection of civilians during wartime." □

Associated Press

Majority of E.U. nations want more partnerships to stem migration from countries of origin

By JAN M. OLSEN
Associated Press

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — A majority of European Union members are calling for more agreements with countries where migrants depart from or travel through to get to Europe, saying the bloc needs to think outside the box to tackle irregular migration into the 27-member bloc.

The call by the 15 member countries came in a letter released Thursday, a day after the EU passed a measure to update to its aging asylum laws but which won't enter force for two years and which only will

work if all member nations put all of its provisions into action.

The letter, addressed to the high-ranking officials in the EU's executive Commission, indicated that officials in signatory countries believe further solutions are needed, saying that the migration situation "will require all of us to think outside the box and jointly find new ways to address this issue at EU level."

It was signed by the immigration ministers of Bulgaria, the Czech Republic and Denmark — which took the lead in the group — plus Estonia, Greece, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Mal-

ta, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Romania and Finland.

On Wednesday, the EU endorsed sweeping reforms to the bloc's failed asylum system as campaigning for Europe-wide elections next month gathers pace, with migration expected to be an important issue. The New Pact on Migration and Asylum lays out rules for EU members to handle people trying to enter without authorization, from how to screen them to establish whether they qualify for protection to deporting them if they're not allowed to stay.

The letter by the 15 mem-



Migrants aboard a rubber boat end up in the water while others cling on to a centifloat before being rescued by a team of the Sea Watch-3, around 35 miles away from Libya, Monday, Oct. 18, 2021.

Associated Press

ber countries said that the bloc should boost "partnerships with key countries, especially along the migratory routes, by changing

our focus from managing irregular migration in Europe to supporting refugees as well as host communities in regions of origin." □

Violence rages in New Caledonia as France rushes emergency reinforcements to its Pacific territory

By **BARBARA SURK and ALEX TURNBULL**

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Violence raged across New Caledonia for the third consecutive day Thursday, hours after France imposed a state of emergency in the French Pacific territory, boosting security forces' powers to quell unrest in the archipelago that has long sought independence.

French authorities in New Caledonia and the interior ministry in Paris said five people, including two police officers, were killed after protests earlier this week over voting reforms pushed by President Emmanuel Macron's government turned deadly.

At least 60 members of the security forces were injured and 214 people were arrested over clashes with police, arson and looting Thursday, the territory's top French official, High Commissioner Louis Le Franc, said.

"Everything is being done to restore order and calm that Caledonians deserve," French Prime Minister Gabriel Attal said after a meeting at the Elysee presidential palace in Paris.

He said that in addition to 1,700 security forces troops that have already been deployed to help police, 1,000 more are on the way but the situation "remains very tense, with looting, riots, arson and attacks, which are unbearable and unspeakable."

Two members of the island's



A man stands in front a burnt car after unrest in Noumea, New Caledonia, Wednesday May 15, 2024.

Indigenous Kanak community were among the five dead, French Interior and Overseas Territories Minister Gerald Darmanin said Thursday as he vowed that France "will regain total control."

He said 10 people, all allegedly from the pro-independence movement known as The Field Acton Coordination Unit, were under house arrest. In April, the group had backed several protests against French authorities on the island.

Still, Darmanin claimed the movement is a "small group which calls itself pro-independence, but instead commits looting, murder and violence."

Leaders of a Kanak Workers

Union in Paris appealed for calm and said they were deeply saddened by deaths in their faraway homeland. "We wish to see the French government make a strong political statement rather than send troops," a union leader Rock Haocas told reporters on Thursday.

"Starting a conversation would be a strong political statement."

In New Caledonia, The National Council of Chiefs of the Indigenous Kanak people condemned "all acts of vandalism and gun violence," but rejected the allegations that the pro-independence movement was involved in

the deadly violence.

Grand Chief Hippolyte Sinewami-Htamumu expressed full support for the pro-independence group, which has mobilized more than a hundred thousand people "of all ages and from all backgrounds" in peaceful protests in recent months in the capital, Nouméa, and throughout the island.

"This is not a 'terrorist group' or 'mafia group,' as certain political leaders want us to believe," he said in a statement on Thursday.

The state of emergency will be in place for at least 12 days as French military forces were being deployed to protect

ports and airports and to free up police troops.

The curfew has been extended until Friday morning, said Le Franc, the high commissioner. The territory's political parties also appealed for calm on both sides — those who support independence and those who want the island to remain part of France.

The last time France imposed emergency powers on one of its overseas territories was in 1985, also in New Caledonia. The measures enable French and local authorities on the archipelago to tackle unrest, authorizing house detentions for those deemed a threat to public order, allowing for searches, weapons' seizures and restricting movement, with possible jail time for violators.

The Pacific island east of Australia, home to about 270,000 people and 10 time zones ahead of Paris, is known to tourists for its UNESCO World Heritage atolls and reefs. Tensions have simmered for decades between the Indigenous Kanaks seeking independence and colonizers' descendants who want it to remain part of France. People of European descent in New Caledonia, which has long served as France's prison colony and now has a French military base, distinguish between descendants of colonizers and descendants of the many prisoners sent to the territory by force. □

Associated Press



Police officers and journalists stand by part of a haul of 1.8 tons of methamphetamine in Madrid, Spain, Thursday, May 16, 2024.

Associated Press

Spanish police say they've broken up Sinaloa cartel network, and seized 1.8 tons of meth

MADRID (AP) — Spanish police dismantled a major methamphetamine distribution network of the Mexican Sinaloa cartel after seizing 1.8 tons of the illegal drug, police said Thursday. Spain's National Police called it the largest confiscation of methamphetamines ever made in the country.

Police said they made five arrests — a Mexican national whom police identified as the group's leader, as well as three Spanish

people and one Romanian — and raided six properties in the eastern region of Valencia.

Officer Antonio Martínez celebrated the "eradication of this group," which police believed was trying to establish a presense in Spain.

According to Martínez, the group used houses in isolated areas in the Valencia region to store the smuggled shipments of methamphetamines before using vehicles with false bottoms

to send them on to other European countries.

"We in the National Police thought that the Mexican cartels were not established in Spain," Martínez said. "But it is true that due to the pressure they are under in other parts of Europe, above all against their laboratories, we are seeing how they are trying to start operations or set up illegal laboratories in Spain to produce drugs."

An investigation is continuing and police said there could be further arrests. □

Dining in? Try making a local favorite How to make “funchi hasa”

(Oranjestad)—A night in can be just as fun as a night out on the town, especially if you got the right snacks to munch on. One of the most famous Aruban snacks or appetizers is “funchi hasa” (fried polenta sticks). A super easy meal that adults and children will both enjoy. Here’s how to make it!

Before we start, get to know the basics

So what is funchi hasa? Funchi, or Aruban polenta, is a popular side dish for local dishes, like soups, stews and fried fish. Made from a corn flour, water and butter mixture, this appetizer is traditionally eaten alongside a warm meal. However, locals also like to fry sticks of funchi for a quick and filling snack.



Ingredients (measured by heart)

1. Polenta flour*
2. Water
3. Butter
4. Salt to taste

Directions

Bring water to a boil in a medium-sized sauce pan. Add in some salt and butter to taste in the boiling water and let this dissolve and melt. Then, gradually add the flour while stirring with a wooden spoon. The mixture will start to begin to harden pretty fast, so be careful not to add too much. At this phase of cooking, you want a goopy thick mixture, but thin enough so you can continue to stir to get all the lumps out.

After reaching a semi-firm, yet flexible texture, grab a baking pan or any large, deep plate, and pour the mixture in. Be sure that this plate is wet or greased so that the mixture does not

stick to the bottom. Let this cool completely while it firms up for the last time. Once it's cooled you can enjoy it as is, topped with some butter or shredded cheese. Or, you can take it to another level of deliciousness.

When your funchi is firm enough, cut it into strips (size is up to you). Heat up some oil in a pan and fry those babies up! After frying, you can top it with some cheese or enjoy it with your favorite dipping sauce.

Note: We recommend the FUNCHI FRESKU polenta flour brand that is sold in all supermarkets on the island. You can also use yellow corn flour from the brand PAN.

Photo credit of fried funchi sticks: Jacqueline Felida on Pinterest.



The Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins and its history

(Oranjestad)—The Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins is one of the most visited places by tourists on the island, as it lies along the northern coast line near the mini pool and on the way to the Natural Bridge. Despite its seemingly plain appearance, this ruin represents one of the most important histories of the island: The Aruban Gold Rush.

Built in 1872 by English company Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd, the gold mill at Bushiribana was constructed in the area where most gold was found by locals. The story of gold on Aruba actually dates back to 1725, when a first exploration for gold on the island was commissioned by the Dutch West India Company. Under the leadership of Mr. Paulus Printz, a three-year search was conducted on Aruba, to no avail. Though they

found some gold, it was enough to motivate a further search, and the assignment was discontinued by Printz himself.

It wasn't until 100 years later, in 1824, when a young boy found a lump of gold while out herding his father's sheep. His father took it to a local merchant who then sold the lump for \$70. Unbeknownst to the boy and his father, they quite literally struck gold, and as word got out, a gold fever spread among the locals who started searching for more gold. About 25 pounds worth was found.

At the same time, the Aruban government took immediate actions, and informed Curacao that gold was found. At first, everyone could look for gold, as long as they sold it to the government. However, after some time, the



government decided to implement stricter rules and banned local search parties.


Over the years, concession-holding had seen different companies from around the world, all of which used primitive methods to dig and carve out gold from the rocks. Aruba

Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. was no different, but used a unique method that involved grinding the rocks and letting the dust be blown away by the strong northeast wind, leaving clumps of gold behind. The next step was melting the gold and letting it attach to quicksilver in order to obtain pure gold. All these

processes were done at the Bushiribana Gold Mill.

The gold mill itself had a short life-span: only 10 years in service, but its structure remained relatively solid till this day, and is now a historical remnant.

Sources: Etnia Nativa & gold-mineranch.com.




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How Aruban beaches came to be!



(Oranjestad)—We've talked about the best beaches to visit on the island before, but have you ever wondered how Aruba got its white, sandy beaches, and why there's a clear difference between the northern and southern shores? Here are some fun facts about the development of Aruban beaches.

How did Aruba get its white, sandy beaches?

Aruba's beaches have developed over the span of thousands of years. Waves crashing on the rocky formations along our coast line (which consists mainly of coral reefs) have started to wear and tear the reefs over time, resulting in its gradual breakdown. Fish that feed off corals

also contribute to this, one small bite at a time. Over the course of thousands of years, as waves continue to crash and fish continue to eat off the corals, sand starts to accumulate around the area. However, whether the sand stays there is another question to be answered, and this is where we highlight the biggest difference between the northern and southern coast of the island.

The sand that accumulates around a torn coral reef is swept away along with the debris by the ocean stream. However, in areas where it's shallow and the stream is weaker, the sand tends to stick to the bottom faster. This is why the beaches in the south—the areas with weaker stream and shallower ocean



floors—has sand that stretches for miles. In contrast, the northern area, where the stream is much stronger and the ocean floor is much deeper, there is no sand present—they were swept away with the current!

Why north deep, but south shallow?

Ah! Good question...and interesting phrasing.

Aruba is a continental

island. The island actually forms part of South America, and the space between Aruba and the South American continent is simply referred to as land that runs under the ocean. This is why it gets gradually deeper in the south, whereas the ocean floor in the north runs steeply to the bottom. □

Source: archival document provided by the National Archive of Aruba (ANA).

Visit the island's hidden natural pools



(Oranjestad)—Amongst the countless beaches surrounding the island that are well-known and frequently visited, there are an additional two "hidden" natural pools that are situated in the northern coast of the island, two ideal stops in your tour itinerary.

Conchi (Natural Pool)

For many years, Conchi was the only natural pool that we had on the island. Located in the Arikok National Park, near Boca Keto and the Daimari Ranch, Conchi—also known "Cura di Turtuga

(Turtle's Cove) or just Natural Pool—is reachable with any 4x4 vehicle or by foot if you're up for a long hike. However, since it is part of the National Park, you must first get permission from park management to enter. You would have to purchase a day pass, and receive a wristband as proof of payment. Once you've completed that, you are set!

If you decide to hike from the entrance of the Arikok National Park, this is also possible: do bring plenty of protective clothing and enough water

and food—it could take you up to three hours to hike there!

However, when you eventually do get there, you will be greeted with crystal blue water surrounded by a natural rock formation that protects you from the wild waves on the other side. Though the pool is located on the northern side of the island (where the sea is largely rough and largely no suitable for swimming), the pool itself is very calm. It's also relatively deep, and you can climb up the rocks and jump in!

Cave Pool

This relatively new pool appeared just a few years ago, when a part of the dried up coral floor broke off and created a partition between the ocean and what is now the natural pool that is hidden there. Because it's still so new, there is no official name for



it, but most people just call it the cave pool.

Just like the Conchi, the new natural pool is situated on the northern coast of Aruba. However, this pool is much easier to reach with any type of vehicle, and there is no hiking needed. This spot has also become a regular stop for touring visitors.

When you get there, maybe you won't be able to spot the pool immediately, because you will probably notice the moon-shaped lagoon where

wild northern waves crash into each other. Sounds scary, but if you look down on your right, you'll see a calm, crystal blue little pool in the corner. To get there, you have to climb down some stairs. Be careful when climbing down and follow the instructions of your tour guide if you have one.

And just like Conchi, this pool also has a jumping spot, and a rope to climb back up the boulder.

Picture of cave pool is credited to RockaBeach Tours

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The Bali Restaurant: a touristic hot spot and lost gem on the island

(Oranjestad)—Once located in what is now the Renaissance Marina, the Bali Restaurant was once both a touristic and local hot spot, and nowadays it's considered a forgotten gem on the island.

Known as "the floating restaurant", Bali first opened in 1955 by Willem "Bill" Strijland, who had experience in Javanese cuisine. At the time, the restaurant was pretty exclusive—with space to host only 25 guests. Yet, 4 years later, it was named the best restaurant in the Caribbean by the Caribbean Tourist Association.

The restaurant was probably most iconic for its Javanese-inspired exterior with its pointy, slanted roofs. However, the first version of Bali did not look like that at all but was still considered as one of the most popular restaurants on the island at the time. The restaurant saw three different owners during its existence, during which it underwent various renovations and rebranding.

In 1964, the restaurant was taken over by Karel "Carl" Schmand. Over the years, the restaurant needed constant renovation and repair, mainly due to its vulnerability to leaks and the unstable pillars underneath the foundation. However, the biggest change made to the restaurant happened in the year 1970—still under the ownership of Schmand, when it got its iconic pointy



roofs. The restaurant was also expanded to host a total of 85 guests. This was "The New Bali", who had its official (re)opening in 1972.

After 1972, when Ronny

Schmand took over, the restaurant saw yet another expansion; this time complete with a long bar and dance floor, where guests enjoyed live music from legendary Aruban musi-

cian and composer, Toti Arends.

After 1989, the restaurant was again handed over to other owners, and since then suffered from unstable

pillars underneath the foundation, resulting in various leaks and overflowing of water into the restaurant. And as most great things come to an end, so did the survival and maintenance of the Bali Restaurant. However, folks today still reminisce its legacy, and it's now considered a lost monument.

Be apart of the conversation: if you or any family member of yours have a memory of the Bali restaurant, whether it be a picture or just a story, share it with us! We would love to see this legendary hot spot through the lens of our visitors! ☐

Source and pictures credit to: "De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over de geschiedenis van Aruba)" by Evert Bongers.



National Park Arikok: Aruba's biggest nature conservation



The National Park Arikok comprises almost 18 % of the island. Its rugged terrain, desert-like hills filled with tall cacti, breathtaking coastline and protected local flora and fauna welcome you to be explored. There are numerous animals to discover, for example the sea turtle who lays his eggs on the park's beaches.

The national park Arikok takes you on a memorable journey of the islands past offering unique geological, cultural and historical sites. These can all be enjoyed and explored either on your own or during guided tours. A wide variety of educational and informative programs and fun activities is available.

Did you know that four of the in total seven species of sea turtle lay their eggs on Aruba's beaches? In the national park, a Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*) keeps a strict eye on a very special event taking place below on the beach: a majestic Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) heads back to sea after laying her eggs, while another nest laid 2 months ago by the same female hatches—a very rare occurrence of daytime nesting and hatching. Sea turtles prefer nesting in the cool and dark hours of the night. And hatchlings usually wait for the cue of cooling surface sand before emerging.

Nature Conservation

The protected area of National Park Arikok was of-

ficially established in 2000. Arikok National Park is a 34 square kilometers (7907 acres) of natural area, located at the north-eastern part of Aruba which contains examples of most of the island's flora and fauna against a backdrop of great geological complexity. We are proud to state that approximately 18% of the total land area of Aruba is assigned as a National Park, to protect and preserve the flora, fauna, geology and historical remains present within Arikok National Park.

The Landscape

There is a great geological variety within the park. The main aspects are the rough hills of the volcanic Aruba lava formation, the mysterious rocks of the batholithic quartz-diorite/tonalite, and the limestone rocks from fossilized coral. The two tallest hills on the island are situated within the park. Jamanota hill 188 meters (617 ft) and Arikok hill 176 meters (577 ft), from which the name of the park is derived.

The line of the permanently wind-and-wave beaten North Coast is broken by several bays (boca's). Most of them are small yet impressive inlets at the mouth of dry riverbeds. Some of these bays (boca's) are spectacular sights, adorned with white, sandy beaches and sand dunes, as is the case at Boca Prins and Dos Playa.

Arikok is also home to Conchi, Aruba's most important natural attraction; also

known as The Natural Pool. The journey to the Pool is and adventure by itself and only possible by foot, horse, ATV or 4x4 vehicle.

Cultural and Historical components

There are a number of sites within the park that attest to the history of Aruba. The Caquetio Indians left rock paintings in Cunucu Arikok and Fontein Cave. The bird drawing in the park logo is a copy of one of these historical artistic expressions.

Old plantation (Cunucus) sites tell the story of an active yet challenging agricultural past.

These Cunucus were also residential areas for the few families that worked the land. These families found



ways to survive in the difficult conditions, and were able to erect their homes with materials found in the area. Two of these adobe houses have been restored. Park rangers are learning many of the old building techniques in order to preserve this unique Aruban mud-house. At Cunucu Arikok and near Plantation Prins you can find these adobe houses.

Park Management

For the management of the park, a dedicated foundation "Fundacion Parke Nacional Arikok" (FPNA), known today as the Aruba National Park Foundation was established in July 2003. In February 2017, mangrove and wetland RAMSAR site #198 Spanish Lagoon was annexed to Arikok National Park due to its importance as a feeding and breeding

area for water birds and as a nursery area for a variety of marine organisms. With this addition, the areas under FPNA management increased by 70 hectares while the amount of species of flora and fauna to be conserved to over 250. On December 21st, 2018 (AB 2018 no. 77) Parke Marino Aruba – currently consisting of four marine protected areas (MPAs) – was officially established and subsequently brought under management of FPNA. In 2019 management plans will be established for the new MPAs which include: coral reefs, sea grass beds, mangrove systems, a large diversity of breeding seabirds. Parke Marino Aruba also contains potential shark nursery areas, endangered sea turtle nesting beaches and marine mammal nursery areas.□



Aruba's cultural and literary development: Then and now

(Oranjestad)—The Aruban culture has seen many substantial developments over the course of a century. With the introduction of the Lago Refinery at the turn of the 20th century, followed by the breakout of the Second World War and the general incentive for political independence during the mid-century, a cultural identity on the island began to take form and have since developed through international and local influences.

In the pre-industrial era of the 19th century, much could not be said about a cultural identity on the island. Still being a part of a Dutch colonial territory at the time, as well as not having political or economic autonomy (Curacao was the center of commerce, cultural life, and political management of the Netherland Antilles at the time), the small population of Aruba consisted mostly of farmers and fishermen, tending to their crops and their cattle, or going out to fish to provide for their family. As Quito Nicolaas states in his article *Historia di Literatura Arubiano: E Bida Cultural* (Literary History of Aruba: Cultural Life), "during the pre-industrial period, there were no significant economic activity that could have created a cultural ambience, with only one way to generate profit at the time for the subsistence of Aruban families."

It wasn't until the introduction of the Lago Refinery in San Nicolas in 1928, that the island saw a small boom in cultural manifesta-



tations and entertainment, as farmers left the 'cunucu' (country) life to work in the refinery, which resulted in Aruba acquiring a different economic pillar. Before this, entertainment and cultural manifestations were mostly experienced by local parishes and the island's elite, who often partook in cultural and entertaining activities around the island, like going to the movie theater or coming together to share poetry on Sundays after church.

Literary life

Throughout the 19th century and up until the 1940s, there were also not much trace of a cultural climate for the cultural-literary sector on the island. Primary education was introduced on the island in the mid-19th century, followed by secondary and higher education around the late 30's and 40's. It wasn't until the 1950s, with the introduction



of the E.R.N.A agreement in 1951 and the signing of the Statute in 1954, which allowed more space for and control over the economic and cultural development of Aruba, that the literary life on the island began to grow substantially compared to decades before. This was in response to local institutions established in the 1940s for cultural and literary growth on the island, but that did not yet capture the atten-

tion of the general public. The 1950 brought with it a boom of literary production on the island, like those of V.S. Piterella, as well as migrant authors José Ramón Vicioso y Rings William Rufus, who have also contributed to the literary development on the island. The literary movement was further promoted by local broadcasters Voz di Aruba and Radio Kelkboom, with their regular broadcast of literary works.

The 50s and 60s also saw the influence of international cultures, especially that of the United States. During this time, because of international influences as well as the continued prosperity of the oil refinery, cultural traditions in Aruba began to really take form and become widespread, as different worldly and local concepts were introduced in the Aruban society. With the establishment of local television broadcast station Tele-Aruba in 1963, and with time and possibilities, local programs such as "Nos Tera" ("Our Land") started to pay more attention to the Aruban culture and worked to form a cultural consciousness within the community. The 1960s also saw the rise of local authors and artists, who were more comfortable in producing works in our native tongue, Papiamentu, but who also produced works in Spanish, English and Dutch. This new phenomenon was in response to the interaction between economic growth, individual prosperity, cultural life and literary expression.

The 21st century

Nowadays, international influence on our culture is still prevalent, especially those from Latin America, the United States and The Netherlands. Nevertheless, there also exists a strong cultural identity and traditions that are exclusive to the Aruban culture, often manifesting during traditional celebrations, like Dia di San Juan/ Dera Gai (St. John's Day), Dia di Himno y Bandera (National Hymn and Flag Day), Camping during Easter and much more. With the surge of social media in the last decade, artistic voices, especially those of the younger generation, has become even more prevalent and easily accessible to the community of Aruba through online platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and TikTok. □



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Source: *Historia di Literatura Arubiano: E Bida Cultural* by J.R. "Quito" Nicolaas

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

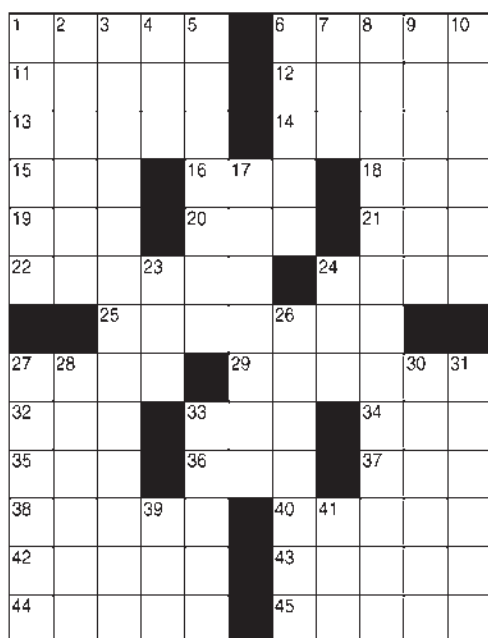
- ACROSS**
- 43 "Wake Up, Little —"
 - 1 Recurring theme
 - 6 Grating sounds
 - 11 Game setting
 - 12 Dizzying designs
 - 13 Bulletin board items
 - 14 Piper of rhyme
 - 15 Blasting letters
 - 16 Summer shirt
 - 18 Moody music
 - 19 Swelled head
 - 20 Includes in an email
 - 21 Jar part
 - 22 Airport car
 - 24 Pub pints
 - 25 Tel Aviv native
 - 27 Pool tool
 - 29 Foot part
 - 32 Artist Jean
 - 33 Tattoo setting
 - 34 Earth-bound bird
 - 35 Suffering
 - 36 Can. neighbor
 - 37 WSW, for one
 - 38 Traded
 - 40 Fence crossing
 - 42 Door sign

DOWN

- 1 Be important
- 2 Grove fruit
- 3 Litho-sphere part
- 4 Squid's squirt
- 5 Racer, e.g.
- 6 Lassos
- 7 Gibbon, for one
- 8 Reception aid
- 9 Baby born early, for short
- 10 Razor sharpeners
- 17 Bakery treats
- 23 Chiding sound
- 24 Green and Gore
- 26 As a group
- 27 Corporate shark
- 28 Francis of TV
- 30 Designer Pucci
- 31 Makes baby food, maybe
- 33 Singing cowboy Gene
- 39 Was a pioneer
- 41 Boy king of Egypt



Yesterday's answer



5-17

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

5-17

CRYPTOQUOTE

IE SKXY BEO WXT, SAYK

SKXY BEO'HU CEY, SKUPU

BEO XPU. — YUIB PEEZUHUMY
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THERE IS A SINGLE LIGHT OF SCIENCE, AND TO BRIGHTEN IT ANYWHERE IS TO BRIGHTEN IT EVERYWHERE — ISAAC ASIMOV

Cruise ship Schedule: May 01 - May 28 2024

TUE	07	CARNIVAL MAGIC	09.00	22.00	C	1
TUE	14	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS CARNIVAL HORIZON	08.00 08.00	21.00 22.00	B C	1 1
WED	15	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	09.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	21	CELEBRITY BEYOND CARNIVAL VISTA	08.00 13.00	21.00 23.00	B C	1 1
WED	22	CARNIVAL CELEBRATION	08.00	22.00	C	1
MON	27	ISLAND PRINCESS	09.00	22.00	C	1
TUE	28	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	22.00	C	1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic—but important—information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Supermarket hours



Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Electrical power



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of out-

Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Safety



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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24/7

Experts say coral reef bleaching near record level globally because of 'crazy' ocean heat

By **SETH BORENSTEIN**
AP Science Writer

Ocean temperatures that have gone "crazy haywire" hot, especially in the Atlantic, are close to making the current global coral bleaching event the worst in history. It's so bad that scientists are hoping for a few hurricanes to cool things off.

More than three-fifths — 62.9% — of the world's coral reefs are badly hurting from a bleaching event that began last year and is continuing. That's nearing the record of 65.7% in 2017, when from 2009 to 2017 about one-seventh of the world's coral died, said Derek Manzello, coordinator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Coral Reef Watch Program.

When water gets too hot, coral, which are living creatures, bleach and sometimes die.

In the Atlantic, off the Florida coast and in the Caribbean, about 99.7% of the coral reefs have been hit with "very very severe" losses in staghorn and elkhorn species, Manzello said Thursday in NOAA's monthly climate briefing. Sixty-two countries are seeing damaged coral, with Thailand shutting off a tourist-laden island to try to save the coral there.

Meteorologists say a La Nina — a natural cooling of parts of the Pacific that changes the weather worldwide — is forecast to develop soon and perhaps cool oceans a bit, but Manzello said it may be too little and too late.

"I still am very worried about the state of the world's coral reefs just because we're seeing things play out right now that are just very unexpected and extreme," Manzello said.

"This wouldn't be happening without climate change. That's basically the cornerstone of all the ocean warming we're seeing," Manzello said. But on top of that are changes in El Nino, the reverse of La Nina and a natural warm-



Bleached coral is visible at the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary, off the coast of Galveston, Texas, in the Gulf of Mexico, Sept. 16, 2023.

Associated Press

ing of ocean waters; reduced sulfur pollution from ships and an undersea volcano eruption.

Former top NASA climate scientist James Hansen said "acceleration of global warming is now hard to deny" in a new analysis and statement Thursday.

For coral, it comes down to how hot the water is and "things have just gone crazy haywire with ocean temperatures in the last year," Manzello said. He said hurricanes bring up cool water from deep and benefit coral reefs if they don't hit them directly.

"Hurricanes can be devastating for reefs," Manzello. "But in the grand scheme

of things and given the current situation we are in on planet Earth, they're now a good thing essentially, which is kind of mind-blowing."

On Wednesday, parts of the Atlantic where hurricanes often develop had an ocean heat content — which measures water warmth at depths — equivalent to mid-August, said hurricane researchers Brian McNoldy at the University of Miami and Phil Klotzbach at Colorado State University.

The world's oceans last month broke a record for the hottest April on record. It was the 13th straight month global seas broke

records, and because the oceans are slow to cool or warm, more records are likely, said Karin Gleason, NOAA's climate monitoring chief.

Coral reefs are key to seafood production and tourism worldwide. Scientific reports have long said loss of coral is one of the big tipping points of future warming as the world nears 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) of warming since pre-industrial time. That's a limit that countries agreed to try to hold to in the 2015 Paris climate agreement.

"This is one of the most biodiverse ecosystems on the planet," said Andrew Pershing, a biological oceanographer who is vice president for science of Climate Central. "It's an ecosystem that we're literally going to watch disappear in our lifetimes." □



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Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
Acc. #23951903
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

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The larger the nonprofit, the more likely it is run by a white man, says new Candid diversity report

AP Business Writer
NEW YORK (AP) — White men are most likely to lead the largest, best-funded nonprofits, while women of color tend to lead the organizations with the fewest financial resources, according to a study from the nonprofit data research organization Candid.

"The State of Diversity in the U.S. Nonprofit Sector" report released by Candid on Thursday is the largest demographic study of the nonprofit sector, based on diversity information provided by nearly 60,000 public charities. According to the study, white CEOs lead 74% of organizations with more than \$25 million in annual revenue, with white men heading 41% of those nonprofits, despite being only about 30% of the population. Women of color, who make up about 20% of the U.S. population, lead 14% of the organizations with more than \$25 million in revenue and 28% of the smallest nonprofits — those with less than \$50,000 in revenue.

The Candid report provides data for nonprofits who have complained for years that minority-led nonprofits attract fewer donations, government resources and sales, even after the racial reckoning following the murder of George Floyd and promises from funders of all sizes seeking change. Many groups argue that when the



Candid CEO Ann Mei Chang poses for a photo at the nonprofit's headquarters on Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2024, in New York.

leadership of a charity comes from the community it is serving, its needs are met more effectively. According to a report from the Ms. Foundation for Women and the consulting group Strength in Numbers, less than 1% of the \$67 billion that foundations donated in 2017 was earmarked specifically for minority women and girls. "Our mission is to use data to help make the whole sector more efficient, effective and equitable," Candid CEO Ann Mei Chang told The Associated Press. "We think that data is a force for good and can

help everybody trying to do good, to do good better." The report's findings are based on data gathered from the Demographics via Candid initiative, where nonprofits voluntarily report the diversity numbers of their organizations. Cathleen Clerkin, Candid's associate vice president of research, said authors of the report compared its findings to other sector-wide data and found them to be consistent. Because the diversity information was self-reported, Clerkin said Candid studied whether nonprofits would be more

likely to share their information because they were more diverse, but found that was not the case. What was more likely to determine whether a nonprofit reported its diversity information was how much they depended on outside donations, said Clerkin, adding that Candid hopes the report will encourage more charities to provide its organization's information.

The report found that environmental and animal welfare groups were least likely to have diverse leadership, with 88% having a white CEO.

Nearly three-quarters of religious nonprofits had white CEOs, according to the report. Portia Allen-Kyle, chief of staff and interim head of external affairs at the racial justice nonprofit Color of Change, said the report's findings were not surprising. "The backsliding of Black leadership and other underrepresented populations is exactly what we unfortunately expect to see in an era of attacks on the tools of Black power like affirmative action, like DEI (diversity, equity and inclusion), et cetera," she said. "It's a nonprofit space where disproportionately white leaders disproportionately receive resources from these white, ultrawealthy donors, while Black leaders from the most impacted communities are expected to often turn water into wine, using nothing but pennies on the dollar."

Allen-Kyle said the fact that the report also finds that women of color are overrepresented as leaders of the smallest charities is also not a surprise. "With these small nonprofits, especially with advocacy, Black women are going to be doing this work regardless and they're doing it on nothing and whether or not they get paid because they believe in it," she said. The report also found that Latinos were underrepresented as nonprofit CEOs in nearly every state. □

Associated Press



The McDonald's restaurant logo and golden arch is lit up, April 20, 2006, in Chicago.

Associated Press

By DEE-ANN DURBIN
AP Business Writer

McDonald's plans to introduce a \$5 meal deal in the U.S. next month to counter slowing sales and customers' frustration with high prices.

The deal would let customers get a four-piece McNugget, small fries, a small drink and either a McDougle burger or a McChicken sandwich for \$5 in most areas, according to a person familiar with the

McDonald's plans \$5 U.S. meal deal next month to counter customer frustration over high prices

deal who wasn't authorized to discuss its details.

The month-long deal is scheduled to begin June 25 and will be advertised nationally. Some stores with higher costs, like those in California or Hawaii, may charge more, the person said.

McDonald's didn't confirm the upcoming deal when asked about it Thursday by The Associated Press. But the Chicago-based burger giant said last month that it was planning to step up deals to combat slowing customer traf-

fic in some markets.

"We know how much it means to our customers when McDonald's offers meaningful value and communicates it through national advertising," McDonald's said in a statement Wednesday.

The meal deal would be a substantial discount from the list prices for the items that will be included in the limited-time deal. One McDonald's location in Michigan charged \$9.66 for the four items sold individually on Thursday. Fast food prices have risen

dramatically in the last few years due to a variety of factors, including elevated costs for labor, food and paper products. Between the first quarter of 2022 and the first quarter of 2024, the amount spent per person per visit at a U.S. fast food restaurant rose 25%, from \$12 to \$15, according to Technomic, a restaurant data firm.

McDonald's said earlier this year that it was seeing fewer U.S. visits and lower spending from customers earning less than \$45,000 per year. □

Schauffele gets another major scoring record and sets the pace at PGA Championship

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Xander Schauffele is playing some of his best golf without a trophy to show for it. He at least put his name in the PGA Championship record book Thursday with a 9-under 62, and gave himself another entry to the record book for all majors. Schauffele seized on the rain-softened conditions at Valhalla with a bogey-free 62, the lowest round in PGA Championship history. On this day, it was only good for a three-shot lead over Tony Finau and Sahith Theegala. Schauffele, a 30-year-old who oozes California chill, kept this one in perspective.

"It's just one day," he said. "Very happy with how I played. I can't think much more of it. I have to tee it up tomorrow." And the opening round was only half over. Still to play in the afternoon was Masters champion Scottie Scheffler, who began his round by holing out with a 9-iron from 167 yards for eagle on the opening hole.

Even so, this was a special round. Schauffele one-putted 12 times — two of them for par that he considered crucial to his round — and he didn't go more than one hole without a birdie until the very end when he finished par-par for the record.

Schauffele had plenty of attention, playing along-



Xander Schauffele reacts after missing a putt on the third hole during the first round of the PGA Championship golf tournament at the Valhalla Golf Club, Thursday, May 16, 2024, in Louisville, Ky. Associated Press

side Louisville native Justin Thomas and in the group ahead of Tiger Woods, who was followed by Rory McIlroy. Thomas rallied late for a 69 that required some perspective of his own.

"When you're playing with one of the easiest 9 unders you've ever seen, it makes you feel like you're shooting a million," Thomas said.

Finau closed with four pars for his 65. Theegala had 65 by finishing with three straight birdies. McIlroy, back on the course where he won his last major 10 years ago, ran off three birdies late in his round

for a 66 that left him tied with Robert MacIntyre of Scotland. Defending champion Brooks Koepka played his final three holes in 3 under for a 67. Bryson DeChambeau and Max Homa, who contended at the Masters, were in a large group at 68.

Jordan Spieth bogeyed his last hole for a 69 in his bid for the final leg of the Grand Slam. There had been 17 scores of 63 at the PGA Championship, most recently Brooks Koepka in the opening round at Bethpage Black in 2019. The list includes Jose Maria Olazabal at Valhalla in 2000 during the

third round.

Schauffele had to get up-and-down from behind the green on the par-3 eighth to a front pin, a chip of 60 feet that was right in the jar until stopping 2 feet short. His two-putt par from about 30 feet on the ninth hole gave him the PGA record.

That makes four rounds of 62 in all the majors, and Schauffele has two of them. He and Rickie Fowler shot 62 in the first round of the U.S. Open last year at Los Angeles Country Club (par 70), while Branden Grace shot 62 in the third round at Royal Birkdale

in the 2017 British Open. And then he began the 24-hour wait before his next shot on Friday afternoon.

"The greens will be a little bit bumpier with a lot of foot traffic coming through. Who knows with the weather — it might rain — so the course might be playing completely different," Schauffele said. "Just going to bed knowing I'm playing some pretty good golf, might just wipe the slate clean." Good golf, indeed. Just no trophy since the summer of 2022.

Schauffele had a one-shot lead last week in the Wells Fargo Championship and McIlroy zoomed by him on the back nine with a 65 to win by five. He also had a one-shot lead going into the final round at The Players Championship until Scheffler shot 64 to win by one.

"I've just been playing some really solid golf," he said. "Been having close calls. My team and I, we just say let's keep chugging along."

This felt like a sprint from when he hit 6-iron to a pin back and left on the par-3 11th to 2 feet, followed by a 15-foot par save on the 12th, one of the few times he was out of position. Schauffele birdied three of the last four holes on the back nine for a 31, and then he ran off three birdies in a four-hole stretch — no putt longer than 10 feet — on the front nine. □

Former world champion Alaphilippe wins the hilly 12th stage of the Giro. Pogacar still leads

FANO, Italy (AP) — Two-time world champion Julian Alaphilippe won the hilly 12th stage of the Giro d'Italia on Thursday with a solo breakaway, while Tadej Pogacar finished safely in the main pack to retain the pink jersey. It was Alaphilippe's first victory in the Giro, to go with his six stage wins at the Tour de France and one at the Spanish Vuelta — plus his back-to-back world titles in 2020 and 2021.

"I hadn't planned on a 125-kilometer breakaway," Alaphilippe said. "It's a splendid victory after a rough period."

Alaphilippe clocked slightly more than 4 hours over the 193-kilometer (120-mile) route from Martinsicuro to Fano, which started flat along the coast but then cut inland for four fourth-category climbs. Jhonatan Narvaez edged Quinten Hermans in a two-man sprint for second, 31 seconds behind Alaphilippe. Pogacar and the peloton finished more than 5 minutes back.

Two-time Tour de France champion Pogacar remained 2 minutes, 40 seconds ahead of Daniel Martinez and 2:56 ahead of Geraint Thomas as

he attempts to win both the Giro and the Tour this year. "If there wasn't the overall standings to worry about, I would have thought about trying to win this stage," Pogacar said. "Alaphilippe showed that he's back. Only champions are capable of actions like that."

Sprinter Fabio Jakobsen abandoned the race before the stage started after crashing on Wednesday.

Stage 13 on Friday follows an entirely flat route from Riccione to Cento.

Then there's an individual time trial on Saturday, followed by



France's Julian Alaphilippe celebrates winning the 12th stage of the Giro d'Italia cycling race from Martinsicuro to Fano, Italy, Thursday, May 16, 2024.

Associated Press

three consecutive mountain legs.

The Giro ends in Rome in 10 days. □



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9:00PM - 11:00PM
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11:30PM
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12:00AM
Selecting 9 winners of \$500 each in slot credit.





Pacers hope home cooking energizes push to even series with New York, force Game 7



New York Knicks' Jalen Brunson, left, drives past Indiana Pacers' Aaron Nesmith during the second half of Game 5 in an NBA basketball second-round playoff series, Tuesday, May 14, 2024, in New York.

Associated Press

By **MICHAEL MAROT**
AP Sports Writer

The Indiana Pacers' season is on the brink. It's win or it's over.

So the last playoff team with a perfect home record has to dig deep and make the most of the energy it receives from its own crowd as it tries to rebound

from an embarrassing loss at New York with a season-saving win Friday night in Game 6.

"What's known doesn't need to be spoken about. Guys know the intensity we have to bring," Pacers All-Star Tyrese Haliburton said after Thursday's practice. "We've got to have a level

of desperation that we've never had before, and we've got to be ready to go for 48 minutes and understand every possession matters even more than it has all playoffs."

Getting to this point certainly didn't occur through happenstance. The young Pacers have provided a difficult challenge for the second-seeded Knicks.

Indiana stopped a franchise-record, 10-game playoff losing streak with a Game 2 victory at Milwaukee in the first round, and then eliminated the Bucks 4-2 for their first series win in a decade. After losing the first two games at New York, the Pacers posted two home wins to even the series.

On Tuesday, though, things went awry. The Knicks outrebounded, outhustled and outworked the Pacers in a 121-91 blowout. New York moved

within a win of reaching the Eastern Conference finals for the first time since 2000 when it lost to the Pacers in six games.

So the Pacers' season suddenly comes down to this; keep their 5-0 postseason home record intact and Game 7 goes back to New York. Lose and their breakout season is over.

"We've got to play harder, we've got play with a greater level of execution," said Indiana coach Rick Carlisle, who helped lead the Dallas Mavericks to an NBA championship in 2011. "If you can't come up with a ball and have level of possessions for the game, you're not going to in the second round of the playoffs. We've got to do better, much better."

The Knicks, meanwhile, are trying to advance while playing short-handed. Three key players — forwards Julius Randle and

Bojan Bogdanovic, and center Mitchell Robinson — have missed the entire series after opting for surgeries. None of those three are expected back even if the Knicks return to Madison Square Garden for Sunday's Game 7.

Defensive stalwart OG Anunoby went down with a hamstring injury in the second half of Game 3. His availability for Game 6 remains unclear after coach Tom Thibodeau said Thursday that Anunoby was doing "light work, very light," which is an upgrade from earlier this week when Thibodeau said Anunoby was doing work in the pool. What has worked for the Knicks is All-Star guard Jalen Brunson, who has topped the 40-point mark six times in 11 playoff games, including 44 points on 18-of-35 shooting when the Knicks needed him most Tuesday night. □